IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A merge information providing apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium storing processor-executable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by the processor, said merge information providing apparatus includes

a plurality of means for providing a plurality of user information items regarding a plurality of users; user, each of the plurality of means for providing user information items including different user information items regarding said user; and

means for receiving an acquisition request relating to a designated user of the plurality of users, the designated user being designated by a user ID;

means for acquiring only designated user information items said different user information items regarding said designated user from among said plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users from each of said plurality of user information providing means in response to said acquisition request, said plurality of user information items including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups; and

means for merging said acquired different designated user information items from each of said plurality of user information providing means into a single designated user information item regarding said user.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

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Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein said means for acquiring only designated user information items acquisition means acquires said different designated user information items regarding said designated user from each of said plurality of user information providing means by using first use permission information permitting that permits the use of each of said plurality of user information providing means.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said merge information providing apparatus further comprising comprises use permission information acquisition means for acquiring said first use permission information from each of said plurality of user information providing means.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 3, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said merge information providing apparatus further comprising comprises use permission information creation means for creating second use permission information that permits the use of said merge user information providing means apparatus.

Claim 6 (Original): The merge information providing apparatus of the claim 5, wherein said use permission information creation means creates said second use permission information including said first use permission information by using said first use permission information.

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Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said merge information providing apparatus further ~~comprising~~ comprises means for setting up each of said plurality of user information providing means according to a request.

Claims 8-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An information providing apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium storing processor-executable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by the processor, said information providing apparatus includes

a merge user information providing apparatus that includes

means for providing a plurality of different information items regarding a designated user that have been merged into a single information item in response to a request, the designated user being designated by a user ID; and ~~from a merge user information providing apparatus,~~

~~wherein said merge user information providing apparatus includes said user information providing means and other~~ a plurality of user information providing means that are subordinate to said ~~merge user~~ means for providing said plurality of different information items regarding said designated user and that include a plurality of user information items regarding a plurality of users, said plurality of user information items including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups, said plurality

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of different information items regarding said designated user that have been

merged into said single information item only including designated user

information items regarding said designated user acquired from among said

plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users from each

of said plurality of user information providing means ~~providing means, each of~~

~~the other user information providing means including different information~~

~~items regarding the designated user~~.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The information providing apparatus as claimed in

claim 19, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said [[user]]

information providing means further comprises means for saving said plurality of different

information items regarding said user.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The information providing apparatus as claimed in

claim 19, wherein said plurality of different information items regarding said user ~~include~~

includes user information and/or group information of a group to which said user belongs,

and wherein said group information includes user information and/or group information of at

least one of said plurality of ~~other~~ user information providing means.

Claims 22-24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A managing apparatus, comprising:

a merge information providing apparatus including

a processor; and

a computer readable medium storing processor-executable instructions,

wherein when the instructions are executed by the processor, said merge information

providing apparatus includes

a plurality of means for providing a plurality of information items

regarding a plurality of users, user, each of the plurality of means for

providing information items including different information items regarding

said user,

means for transmitting a setup request regarding a set up of each of

said plurality of means for of user information items providing said plurality

of information items regarding said plurality of users means, and

means for acquiring only designated user information said different

user information items regarding [[said]] a designated user from among said

plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users from each of

said plurality of means for providing said plurality of [[user]] information

items regarding said plurality of users, providing means and for merging said

acquired different designated user information items regarding said designated

user from each of said plurality of means for providing said plurality of

information items into a single designated user information item, the

designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information

items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user

passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups.

Claim 26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The managing apparatus as claimed in claim [[26]] 25, wherein said means for acquiring only designated user information items acquisition means acquires said different designated information items regarding said designated user from each of said plurality of user information providing means by using first use permission information permitting that permits the use of each of said plurality of user information items providing means.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said merge information providing apparatus further comprising comprises use permission information acquisition means for acquiring said first use permission information from each of said plurality of user information items providing means.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The managing apparatus as claimed in claim [[25]] 27, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said merge information providing apparatus further comprising comprises use permission information creation means for creating second use permission information that permits the use of said merge user information providing means apparatus.

Claim 30 (Original): The managing apparatus of the claim 29, wherein said use permission information creation means creates said second use permission information including said first use permission information by using said first use permission information.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said merge information providing apparatus further comprising comprises means for setting up said user information items providing means according to a request.

Claims 32-43 (Canceled).

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): A merge information providing method in a merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus including a plurality of means for providing a plurality of user information items regarding a plurality of users [[user]] , said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring only designated different user information items regarding [[said]] a designated user from among said plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users from each of said plurality of user information items providing means, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups; and

merging said acquired ~~different~~ <u>designated</u> user information items regarding said <u>designated</u> user <u>from each of said plurality of user information providing means into a single designated user information item</u>.

Claim 45 (Canceled).

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): An information providing method in a user information providing apparatus, said user information providing apparatus including means for providing <u>a plurality of</u> user information items regarding a [[user]] <u>plurality of users</u>, said method comprising:

providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing apparatus ~~including~~ <u>that includes</u> said user information items providing means and ~~other~~ <u>a plurality of means for providing a plurality of</u> user information items <u>regarding a plurality of users</u> ~~providing means~~, a plurality of different information items regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing apparatus<u>, said plurality of different information items regarding said designated user only including designated user information items regarding said designated user acquired from among said plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users from each of said plurality of user information providing means, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups</u>.

Claim 47 (Canceled).

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A managing method in a merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information apparatus including a plurality of means for providing a plurality of information items regarding a [[user]] plurality of users, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring different only designated user information items regarding [[said]] a designated user from among said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users from each of said plurality of user information items providing means, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups;

merging said acquired different designated user information items regarding said user from each of said plurality of user information providing means into a single designated user information item; and

transmitting a set up request [[of]] for said plurality of user information items providing means.

Claim 49 (Canceled).

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method for providing merge information in a merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus including a plurality of means for providing a plurality of information items regarding a [[user]] a plurality of users, said method comprising the steps of:

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acquiring ~~different~~ only designated user information items regarding [[said]] a

designated user from among said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of

users from each of said plurality of user information items providing means, the designated

user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said

plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or

membership of groups; and

merging said acquired ~~different~~ designated user information items regarding said

designated user from each of said plurality of user information providing means into a single

designated user information item.

Claim 51 (Canceled).

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method of providing

information in a user information providing apparatus, said user information providing

apparatus including a means for providing a plurality of information items regarding a

[[user]] plurality of users, said method comprising:

providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing apparatus

~~including~~ that includes said user information items providing means and ~~other~~ a plurality of

means for providing a plurality of user information items regarding a plurality of users

~~providing means~~, a plurality of different information items regarding a designated user to said

merge user information providing apparatus, the designated user being designated by a user

ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs,

user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups, said plurality

of different information items regarding said designated user only including designated user information items regarding said designated user acquired from among said plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users from each of said plurality of user information providing means.

Claim 53 (Canceled).

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method of managing information in a merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus including a plurality of means for providing a plurality of user information items regarding a [[user]] plurality of users, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring different only designated user information items regarding [[said]] a designated user from among said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users from each of said plurality of user information items providing means, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups;

merging said acquired different designated user information items regarding said designated user from each of said plurality of user information providing means into a single designated user information item; and

transmitting a set up request [[of]] for said plurality of user information items providing means.

Claim 55 (Canceled).

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): A processor-readable medium ~~storing program code~~ that includes processor-executable instructions for providing merge information in a merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus including a plurality of means for providing a plurality of user information items regarding a [[user]] a plurality of users, wherein said instructions, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to perform a [[said]] method comprising the steps of:

acquiring ~~different~~ only designated user information items regarding [[said]] a designated user from among said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users from each of said plurality of user information items providing means, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups; and

merging said ~~different~~ acquired designated user information items regarding said designated user from each of said plurality of user information providing means into a single designated user information item.

Claim 57 (Canceled).

Claim 58 (Currently Amended): A processor-readable medium ~~storing program code~~ that includes processor-executable instructions for providing information in a user information providing apparatus, said user information providing apparatus including a

plurality of means for providing <u>a plurality of</u> user information items regarding a [[user]] <u>plurality of users, wherein said instructions, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to perform a</u> [[said]] method comprising:

providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing apparatus ~~including~~ <u>that includes</u> said user information items providing means and ~~other~~ <u>a plurality of means for providing a plurality of</u> user information items <u>regarding a plurality of users</u> ~~providing means~~, a plurality of different information items regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing apparatus<u>, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of different information items regarding said designated user only including designated user information items regarding said designated user acquired from among said plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users from each of said plurality of user information providing means, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups</u>.

Claim 59 (Canceled).

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): A processor-readable medium ~~storing program code~~ <u>that stores processor-executable instructions</u> for managing information in a merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus including a plurality of means for providing <u>a plurality of</u> user information items regarding a [[user]] <u>plurality of users, wherein said instructions, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to perform a</u> [[said]] method comprising the steps of:

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acquiring ~~different~~ only designated user information items regarding [[said]] a

designated user from among said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of

users from each of said plurality of user information items providing means, the designated

user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said

plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or

membership of groups;

merging said acquired ~~different~~ designated user information items regarding said user

from each of said plurality of user information providing means into a single designated user

information item; and

transmitting a set up request for a set up of each of said plurality of user information

items providing means.

Claim 61 (Canceled).

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): A merge information providing apparatus

comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium storing processor-executable instructions, wherein when

the instructions are executed by the processor, said merge information providing apparatus

includes

a plurality of means for providing a plurality of user information items

regarding a [[user]] plurality of users;

means for acquiring <u>only</u> a first <u>designated</u> user information item regarding a

<u>designated</u> user registered to <u>a first</u> one of said <u>plurality of</u> user information providing

means of which use is permitted <u>from among a said plurality of user information</u>

<u>items, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information</u>

<u>items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords,</u>

<u>group IDs, group names, or membership of groups</u>; [[and]]

means for acquiring <u>only</u> a second <u>designated</u> user information item regarding

~~the same~~ <u>said designated</u> user registered to ~~other~~ <u>a second one of said plurality</u> user

information item providing means <u>from among said plurality of user information</u>

<u>items</u>, without distinguishing [[the]] <u>said designated</u> user as to whether or not the use

of said <u>second one of said plurality</u> user information item providing means is

permitted<u>; and</u> [[,]] ~~said merge information providing apparatus~~

<u>means for</u> merging said acquired first and second <u>designated</u> user information

items regarding said <u>designated</u> user <u>into a single merged designated user information</u>

<u>item</u>.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): The merge information providing apparatus as

claimed in claim 62, <u>wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said</u>

<u>merge information providing apparatus</u> further ~~comprising:~~ <u>comprises</u> means for managing

distinction information that distinguishes said <u>designated</u> user registered to <u>at least one of</u>

said <u>plurality</u> user information providing means <u>from the rest of said plurality of users</u>[[;]]

~~means for acquiring said first and second user information items regarding said user~~

~~from said user information items providing means; and~~

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~~means for merging said first and second user information items regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means~~.

Claim 64 (Currently Amended): The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 63, wherein said distinction information managing means provides said distinction information of said [[same]] <u>designated</u> user to <u>at least one of</u> said <u>first or second</u> <u>designated</u> user information acquisition means in response to a request from <u>said at least one of</u> said <u>first or second designated</u> user information acquisition means.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended): The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said <u>first and second designated</u> user information acquisition means acquires said first and second <u>designated</u> user information items regarding said <u>designated</u> user from said <u>first and second ones of said plurality of</u> user information providing means by using permission information that permits the use of said distinction information and said <u>first and second ones of said plurality of</u> user information providing means.

Claim 66 (Currently Amended): The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 62, <u>wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said</u> <u>merge information providing apparatus</u> further ~~comprising~~ <u>comprises</u> means for setting up said ~~subordinate~~ <u>plurality of</u> user information providing means according to a request.

Claims 67-76 (Canceled).

Claim 77 (Currently Amended): An information providing apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium storing processor-executable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by the processor, said information providing apparatus includes means for providing only designated user information items regarding a designated user from among a plurality of user information items regarding a plurality of users, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups, said designated user information providing means corresponding to a distinction information that distinguishes said designated user registered to said designated user information providing means and/or other registered to a plurality of means for providing said plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users providing means to a merge user information providing apparatus in response to a request from said merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus including said designated user information items providing means and other said plurality of means for providing said plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users providing means, said user information providing means and other user information providing means including different information items regarding a user.

Claim 78 (Currently Amended): The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 77, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said information

providing apparatus further ~~comprising~~ comprises means for saving said ~~different~~ designated

information items regarding [[the]] said designated user.

Claim 79 (Currently Amended): The information providing apparatus as claimed in

claim 77, wherein said designated information items regarding said designated user includes

user information and/or group information of a group to which said designated user belongs,

said group information including designated user information and/or group information of

~~other~~ at least one of said plurality of user information providing means.

Claim 80 (Canceled).

Claim 81 (Currently Amended): The information providing apparatus as claimed in

claim 78, wherein said designated user information items providing means further comprises

means for saving said designated user information regarding [[to]] said designated user.

Claim 82 (Canceled).

Claim 83 (Currently Amended): A managing apparatus, comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium storing processor-executable instructions, wherein when

the instructions are executed by the processor, said managing apparatus includes

a merge information providing apparatus including a plurality of means for

providing a plurality of user information items regarding a [[user]] plurality of users,

~~each of the plurality of means for providing user information items including different user information items regarding said user~~; [[and]]

means for transmitting information regarding set up of said <u>plurality of</u> user information items providing means<u>; and</u> [[,]]

means for acquiring <u>only designated user information items</u> ~~said different user information items~~ regarding a <u>designated</u> user registered to <u>at least one of</u> the <u>plurality of</u> user information items providing means of which use is permitted <u>from among said plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups,</u> ~~and the same~~ <u>said designated</u> user <u>being</u> registered to ~~other~~ <u>at least two of said plurality of</u> user information providing means [[,]] without distinguishing the <u>designated</u> user by the user information providing means of which use is permitted, said merge information providing apparatus merging said acquired ~~different~~ <u>designated</u> user information items regarding said <u>designated</u> user <u>into a single merged designated user item</u>.

Claim 84 (Currently Amended): The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, <u>wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said managing apparatus</u> further ~~comprising:~~ <u>comprises</u> means for managing distinction information that distinguishes whether said <u>designated</u> user is registered to <u>at least one of</u> said <u>plurality of</u> user information providing means<u>.</u> [[;]]

~~means for acquiring a plurality of different user information items regarding said user~~

~~from said user information providing means; and~~

~~means for merging said plurality of different user information items regarding said~~

~~user acquired in said user information acquisition means.~~

Claim 85 (Currently Amended): The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 84,

wherein said distinction information managing means provides said distinction information of

said [[same]] <u>designated</u> user to said user information acquisition means in response to a

request from said user information acquisition means.

Claim 86 (Currently Amended): The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 84,

wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said ~~plurality of different~~

<u>designated</u> user information items regarding said <u>designated</u> user from said <u>plurality of</u> user

information providing means by using permission information that permits the use of said

distinction information and said <u>plurality of</u> user information providing means.

Claim 87 (Currently Amended): The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83,

<u>wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said managing apparatus</u>

further ~~comprising~~ <u>comprises</u> means for setting up said <u>plurality of</u> user information

providing means according to a request.

Claim 88 (Currently Amended): The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83,

<u>wherein, when the instructions are executed by the processor, said managing apparatus</u>

further ~~comprising~~ comprises means for displaying a screen for setting up said merge ~~user~~

~~information providing means~~ information providing apparatus and said plurality of user

information providing means.

Claims 89-99 (Canceled).

Claim 100 (Currently Amended): A merge user information providing method in a

merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information providing including

a plurality of means for providing a plurality of user information items regarding a [[user]]

plurality of users, comprising the steps of:

acquiring, from among said plurality of user information items regarding said

plurality of users, only a plurality of different information items regarding a designated user

registered to at least one of said plurality of user information item providing means of which

use is permitted, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of

information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user

passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups, said designated ~~and the same~~

user being registered to at least two of the plurality of ~~other~~ user information items providing

means [[,]] without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information

items providing means is permitted; and

merging said acquired plurality of different user information items regarding said

designated user into a single merged designated user information item.

Claims 101-102 (Canceled).

Claim 103 (Currently Amended): An information providing method in a user

information providing apparatus, said user information providing apparatus including a

plurality of means for providing a plurality of information items regarding a [[user]] plurality

of users, comprising the step of:

providing only, in response to a request from a merge user information providing

apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus including said plurality of user

information items providing means and other user information items providing means, a

plurality of different information items regarding a designated user from among said plurality

of information items regarding said plurality of users, the designated user being designated by

a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user

IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups, said

designated user corresponding to distinction information registered to at least one of said

plurality of [[said]] user information items providing means and/or other user information

items providing means for distinguishing said user to said merge user information providing

apparatus.

Claim 104 (Canceled).

Claim 105 (Currently Amended): A managing method in a merge user information

providing apparatus, said merge user information providing including a plurality of means for

providing a plurality of user information items regarding a [[user]] plurality of users,

comprising the steps of:

acquiring, from among said plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users, only a plurality of different information items regarding a designated user registered to at least one of said plurality of user information item providing means of which use is permitted, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups, said designated and the same user being registered to at least two of the plurality of other user information items providing means [[,]] without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information items providing means is permitted;

merging said acquired plurality of different user information items regarding said designated user into a single merged designated user information item; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said plurality of user information items providing means.

Claims 106-110 (Canceled).

Claim 111 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented information providing method in a user information providing apparatus, said user information providing apparatus including a plurality of means for providing a plurality of user information items regarding a [[user]] plurality of users, comprising the step of:

providing only, in response to a request from a merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus including said plurality of user information items providing means and other user information items providing means, a

plurality of different information items regarding a <u>designated</u> user <u>from among said plurality</u>

<u>of information items regarding said plurality of users, the designated user being designated by</u>

<u>a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user</u>

<u>IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups,</u> said

<u>designated user</u> corresponding to distinction information registered to <u>at least one of said</u>

<u>plurality of</u> [[said]] user information items providing means ~~and/or other user information~~

~~items providing means~~ for distinguishing said user to said merge user information providing

apparatus.

Claim 112 (Canceled).

Claim 113 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented managing method in a

merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus

including <u>a plurality of</u> means for providing <u>a plurality of</u> user information items regarding a

[[user]] <u>plurality of users,</u> comprising the steps of:

acquiring<u>, from among said plurality of user information items regarding said</u>

<u>plurality of users, only</u> a plurality of different information items regarding a <u>designated</u> user

registered to <u>at least one of</u> said <u>plurality of</u> user information item providing means of which

use is permitted<u>, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of</u>

<u>information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user</u>

<u>passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups,</u> said designated ~~and the same~~

user <u>being</u> registered to <u>at least two of the plurality of</u> ~~other~~ user information items providing

means [[,]] without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information

items providing means is permitted;

merging said acquired plurality of different user information items regarding said

designated user into a single merged designated user information item; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said plurality of user information items

providing means.

Claims 114-115 (Canceled).

Claim 116 (Currently Amended): A processor-readable medium storing a program

code for providing merge user information in a merge user information providing apparatus,

said merge user information providing apparatus including a plurality of means for providing

a plurality of user information items regarding a [[user]] plurality of users, comprising the

steps of:

acquiring, from among said plurality of user information items regarding said

plurality of users, only a plurality of different information items regarding a designated user

registered to at least one of said plurality of user information item providing means of which

use is permitted, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of

information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user

passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups, said designated and the same

user being registered to at least two of the plurality of other user information items providing

means [[,]] without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information

items providing means is permitted; and

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merging said acquired plurality of different user information items regarding said

designated user into a single merged designated user information item.

Claims 117-118 (Canceled).

Claim 119 (Currently Amended): A processor-readable medium for providing

information in a user information providing apparatus, said user information providing

apparatus including a plurality of means for providing a plurality of user information items

regarding a [[user]] plurality of users, comprising the step of:

providing only, in response to a request from a merge user information providing

apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus including said plurality of user

information items providing means and other user information items providing means, a

plurality of different information items regarding a designated user from among said plurality

of information items regarding said plurality of users, the designated user being designated by

a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user

IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups, said

designated user corresponding to distinction information registered to at least one of said

plurality of [[said]] user information items providing means and/or other user information

items providing means for distinguishing said user to said merge user information providing

apparatus.

Claim 120 (Canceled).

Claim 121 (Currently Amended): A processor-readable medium for managing information in a merge user information providing apparatus, said merge user information providing apparatus including a plurality of means for providing a plurality of user information items regarding a [[user]] plurality of users, comprising the steps of:

acquiring, from among said plurality of user information items regarding said plurality of users, only a plurality of different information items regarding a designated user registered to at least one of said plurality of user information item providing means of which use is permitted, the designated user being designated by a user ID, said plurality of information items regarding said plurality of users including user IDs, user names, user passwords, group IDs, group names, or membership of groups, said designated and the same user being registered to at least two of the plurality of other user information items providing means [[,]] without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information items providing means is permitted; [[and]]

merging said acquired plurality of different user information items regarding said designated user into a single merged designated user information item; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said plurality of user information items providing means.

Claim 122-124 (Canceled).